

### **In the Claims**

1. - 6. (cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) A disposable diaper comprising

a body portion having two enlarged end portions and a narrowed intermediate portion therebetween, the body portion being shaped so that said diaper may extend about a waist and crotch of a wearer and have an inside and an outside with respect to the wearer;

each end portion having respective waistband portion at an edge thereof so that when the diaper is worn, the waistband portions gird the waist of the wearer;

at least two body-portion layers including a layer of liquid-absorbent material and a plastic layer having an edge at the edge of the diaper;

a soft padding member located along at least one of said waistband portions, being adjacent to said plastic layer edge, the soft padding member being distinct from all of said body-portion layer, the soft padding member including a material formed from a soft substance so that the soft substance is located between the diaper wearer and the plastic layer edge, so that the diaper presents a soft surface at said inside of the diaper waistband portion despite said plastic layer edge; and

said soft padding member extending from the inside to the outside of said diaper, wrapping over said plastic layer edge, providing cushioning and a barrier to alleviate leakage.

8. (Currently amended) A disposable diaper comprising

a body portion having two enlarged end portions and a narrowed intermediate portion therebetween, the body portion being shaped so that said diaper may extend about a waist and crotch of a wearer and have an inside and an outside with respect to the wearer [[:]] ;

each end portion having respective waistband portion at an edge thereof so that when the diaper is worn, the waistband portions gird the waist of the wearer;

at least two body-portion layers including a layer of liquid-absorbent material and a plastic layer having an edge at the edge of the diaper;

a strip of non-abrasive material located along at least one of said waistband portions, being substantially adjacent to said plastic layer edge, said strip being distinct from all of said body-portion layer, said strip providing a cushion between the diaper wearer and the plastic layer edge so that the diaper presents a cushioned surface at said inside of the diaper waistband portion despite said plastic layer edge; and

said strip extending from the inside of the diaper to the outside of the diaper, wrapping over said plastic layer edge, providing cushioning and a barrier to alleviate leakage.

9. - 40. (canceled)